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Age historians and geographers, together with the really important statements in Ivar Bardsen's *Descriptio*, and in Icelandic and ecclesiastical annals.

And in the same way, would it have been difficult to annex to the Cabot documents here printed the Petition and First Letters Patent of March 5, 1496 (the fundamental document relating to John Cabot's earliest "American" voyage), together with the despatch of March 28, 1496, from Ferdinand and Isabella to Ruy Gonçales de Puebla, their senior ambassador in England, Henry VII.'s grant of August 10, 1497, "to him that found the new isle", John Cabot's pension order of December 13, 1497, and second letters patent of February 3, 1498? The insertion of these (or at least of their material passages) would not have required very much space, and would certainly have been welcome to many of those for whom this admirable series is especially intended.¹

C. RAYMOND BEAZLEY.

Christopher Columbus and the New World of his Discovery. A Narrative by FILSON YOUNG, with a Note on the Navigation of Columbus's First Voyage by the EARL OF DUNRAVEN, K.P. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company; London: E. Grant Richards. 1906. Two vols., pp. xxi, 323; ix, 399.)

THIS new life of the discoverer of America, although based to some extent on a study of the documents, is distinctly a popular work which offers nothing which need detain the scholar except the valuable and interesting "Note on the Navigation of Columbus's First Voyage by the Earl of Dunraven, K. P." This little treatise of some thirty pages throws light on many a passage in the Columbus narratives which the editors have left in obscurity. For example, Columbus frequently refers to the position of the "Guards", Beta and Gamma in the constellation of Ursa Minor. There is in particular the passage in the Journal of September 30, which has been mistranslated or, if correctly translated, left without explanation by every editor of that narrative. The Earl of Dunraven gives a lucid interpretation of the passage in question and explains the use made by sailors of the position "of the Guards" in determining the time in the night.

The most distinct merit in the body of the work is the rather full quotation from Columbus's own writings to illustrate his character or purposes. The translations in almost all cases are those given by Mr. John Boyd Thacher in his *Columbus*, who authorized Mr. Young to draw freely from them. Mr. Young's narrative is lively but too much interspersed with "purple passages". His model as a historian has only too plainly been Carlyle, whose pale ghost meets one at every turn. In criticism he adopts Mr. Vignaud's radical and destructive conclusions

¹ Some of these omissions might be defended on the ground that the series is intended to be a collection of narratives and not of documents, and that it does not aim at completeness, but is made up by selection. Ed.

in regard to the Toscanelli correspondence. On the other hand, he retells the egg story, which he characterizes (I. 257) as "a sufficiently inane story . . . ; but there is enough character in this little feat, ponderous, deliberate, pompous, ostentatious, and at bottom a trick and deceitful quibble, to make it accord with the grandiloquent public manner of Columbus, and to make it easily believable of one who chose to show himself in his speech and writings so much more meanly and pretentiously than he showed himself in the true acts and business of his life." The rejection of the incident of the egg story (first attributed to Columbus by Benzoni, a literary compiler, a half-century later, and told of Brunelleschi and his dome a half-century before the voyage of Columbus) is a sufficiently established result of criticism to have saved Mr. Young his reflections on it. In many cases the historically-minded student will be irritated by Mr. Young's flippant and journalistic comments on subjects of importance like the Demarcation Bulls.

Mr. Young devotes a page to "the work called *Libro de las Profecias*, or Book of the Prophecies, in which he wrote down such considerations as occurred to him in his stupor. . . . The manuscript of this work is in existence, although no human being has ever ventured to reprint the whole of it" (II. 145-146). It is reprinted in the *Raccolta Colombiana*, and is not at all what Mr. Young describes it to be, but mainly a collection of scripture texts supposed to relate to the recovery of Jerusalem and the end of the world. Mr. Young scornfully reproduces one of the calculations in this work, no better or no worse than would be found in any orthodox commentary on Daniel or the Apocalypse down to within a **generation, and then** exclaims in his favorite Carlylese: "Good Heavens! in what an entirely dark and sordid stupor is our Christopher now sunk—a veritable slough and quag of stupor out of which, if he does not manage to flounder himself, no human hand can pull him."

In conclusion, the most serious deficiency in Mr. Young's work is not its occasional errors, but its great lack of the true historical spirit of interpretation. It is the work of a clear and versatile writer, but not of a historical scholar. It will amuse and interest the general reader and not seriously mislead him as to the career of Columbus, but from it he will gain little instruction in historical interpretation.

E. G. B.

A History of the United States and its People from their Earliest Records to the Present Time. By ELROY MCKENDREE AVERY. In fifteen volumes. Volume II. (Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Company. 1905. Pp. xxxvi, 458.)

In this second installment of the series which, according to the announcement on the title-page, is to be extended from twelve volumes to fifteen, Dr. Avery describes the projection of French, English, Dutch, and Swede on to the Atlantic seaboard, and the vicissitudes befalling them after arrival, from 1600 to 1660 approximately. Obedient to the